# W. T. GRANT COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT 

1943

# W. T. GRANT COMPANY <br> ANNUAL REPORT <br> 1943 Fiscal Year 

To be submitted to the
Meeting of Stockholders
May 16, 1944
1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William T. Grant, Chairman

John G. Byler
Joseph W. Chinn
Howland S. Davis
Raymond H. Fogler
Clayton E. Freeman

- Deceased, February 25, 1944

Karl D. Gardner*
John M. Hancock
James L. O'Neill
Robert R. Updegraff
William B. Warner

## OFFICERS

William T. Grant, Chairman of the Board
Raymond H. Fogler, President and General Manager
Louis C. Lustenberger, Vice-President
Edward Staley, Vice-President
John B. Boyle, Vice-President
John G. Byler, Vice-President and Treasurer
George I. Mason, Secretary
Robert A. Seidel, Comptroller
M. F. Ketz, Assistant Comptroller

## Executive Office

1441 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Transfer Agent
Guaranty Trust Company
of New York

Registrar
Bankers Trust Company
New York, N. Y.

New York, N. Y., April 26, 1944

To the Stockholders of the W. T. Grant Company:

This Annual Report contains the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, and Surplus Statements for the fiscal year ended on January 31, 1944.

## Results of the Year

Sales of $\$ 163,983,317$ were again the largest in the history of the company. This is an increase of $\$ 9,778,864$ or $6.3 \%$ over sales of $\$ 154,204,453$ in the previous year. The increase in sales was greatest during the first half of the year. During the final six months sales were approximately the same as in the corresponding period of 1942.


Net earnings for the year were $\$ 3,810,345$, a small increase over the $\$ 3,762,223$ earned in the previous year. After full dividends on the preferred stock earnings were equivalent to $\$ 2.91$ per share on the common stock which compares with $\$ 2.86$ in the previous year. During 1943 dividends of $\$ 1.40$ per share were paid on the common stock which is the same as was paid in the previous year.

Earnings before taxes were $\$ 10,406,345$ as compared with $\$ 9,683,723$ in the previous year. Federal Income and Excess Profits Taxes are estimated to be $\$ 6,596,000$. This does not include $\$ 498,000$ of Excess Profits Taxes which will be refunded to the company after the close of the war. In the previous year provision for taxes was $\$ 5,921,500$.

On January 31, 1944, the balance sheet showed current assets of $\$ 36,339,590$ including $\$ 11,490,309$ cash, and current liabilities of $\$ 11,650,184$. Not included in these figures were $\$ 6,000,000$ in United States Tax Notes purchased for use in payment of a portion of accrued tax liability. Working capital of $\$ 24,689,406$ increased by $\$ 2,240,031$ during the year. Surplus at the end of the year was $\$ 23,972,232$, an increase of $\$ 1,796,419$.

At the end of the year merchandise inventories including goods in transit were $\$ 24,132,446$ which compares with inventories of $\$ 21,675,697$ a year ago. The company is continuing a conservative policy on merchandise inventories and at the time of this report both inventories and commitments are below the similar date a year ago. Every effort is being made to keep inventories in proper balance with sales and to be in liquid position when merchandise of pre-war types and quality is again available.

Total wages and compensation paid employees for the year were $\$ 24,089,309$, an increase of $\$ 2,356,486$ over 1942.

At the end of the year 493 stores were in operation, the same number as were operating at the end of the previous year. Repairs and maintenance of equipment in existing stores were reasonably adequate, in view of restrictions on the use of materials.

## Orgamization and Personnel

Aside from merchandise shortages, the greatest wartime problem faced by the company, is in the maintenance of an adequate managerial and sales organization. Military service, shifts to defense industries, and family relocations account for the far greater than normal turnover of employees. The number of men in the armed services has increased to 1,075 . Among them are 186 store managers, difficult to replace because of their years of training and experience. The short-
age in trained managerial personnel has been partially solved by promoting women to managerial positions. At present 32 stores are being managed competently by women.

With the general shortage of experienced saleswomen to wait on customers, the company has converted a number of smaller stores to a "self service" basis. Store layouts and displays have been modified to facilitate the selection of merchandise by the customer, permitting the store organization to devote the bulk of their time to merchandising and store up-keep. It is too early to predict the effect of this experiment on the post-war merchandising program of the company.

Our employees continue active in the sale of War Savings Bonds and Stamps. Sales of stamps and Series "E"' Bonds exceeded $\$ 4,000,000$, a $100 \%$ increase over the previous year.

During the year, John B. Boyle, Director of Real Estate, and Edward Staley, Director of Store Operations, were elected Vice-Presidents of the company.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on February 25, 1944 of Karl Dana Gardner, a Director and former President of the company. Mr. Gardner joined the company in 1913 on graduating from college and worked his way up through every level of the organization to the presidency. He made a real contribution to the growth and success of the company.

## Government Regulation

The public press has contained numerous references to litigation between your company and the Office of Price Administration relative to the "highest price line limitation" provision of the Maximum Price Regulation 330. No question of overcharging customers for any article is involved. Your company is vigorously protesting this provision and will continue to do so because it is not price control. This provision is not used in determining the specific selling prices for which any particular item of merchandise may be sold, but is an attempt to limit the character and quality of merchandise lines which may be carried. It is a needless and harmful restriction of the activities of your company as well as of all other distributors of low-priced merchandise, and has resulted in encouraging abnormal and unwarranted increases in selling prices of women's, misses' and children's outerwear, viz: coats, suits, dresses, blouses and skirts. By a maze of technicalities, your company has been forced into the very unusual position of having to appeal to governmental agencies for the right to distribute such merchandise at prices lower than are currently being charged by competitors.

With the wide assortment of merchandise handled by the company, it is estimated that over 1,000 government wartime regulations directly affect its operations. It is recognized that emergency regulations are necessary in wartime, and every effort is being made to familiarize our employees with regulations affecting their work.

## Future Outlook

Currently sales are approximating the high levels of corresponding months of 1943. There is increasing difficulty in securing lines which normally contribute a large portion of our sales volume, particularly in lower priced textile and wearing apparel lines. Losses in sales in these lines are being overcome through aggressive merchandising of lines which are available, but sizable increases in sales cannot be anticipated until there is a more general availability of merchandise.

We look forward to the time when the war will end and the company can build for the future. The return of men now in military service will reestablish our managerial organization. The resumption of full manufacturing production of civilian goods will permit the normal merchandising of wide assortments of popular priced merchandise which make Grant stores interesting to customers. The elimination of restrictions on construction will enable the modernization of existing stores and expansion into new cities. Four locations for new stores have been acquired and in five cities where stores are now operated, new and larger locations have been purchased or are now under lease for postwar use.


Chairman of the Board of Directors


President


# W. T. GRAN 

ASSETS

| CURRENT ASSETS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash | \$11,490,309 |  |
| United States War Savings Bonds, Series F-at redemption value. |  |  |
| United States War Savings Stamps (for resale)-at cost | 53,726 |  |
| Accounts receivable, claims, etc. . | 517,411 |  |
| Merchandise inventories, including merchandise in transit- $\$ 2,694,698$ (at not in excess of the lower of |  |  |
| OTHER ASSETS |  |  |
| Cash surrender value of life insurance | \$ 1,692,036 |  |
| Refundable portion (post-war) of federal excess profits tax-estimated . | 923,000 |  |
| Advances to and security deposited with landlordsto be repaid over a term of years | 312,733 |  |
| Real estate mortgages receivable | 67,000 |  |
| Sundry accounts and investments; funds in closed banks and restricted balances (less reserve of $\$ 18,189)$ | 40,188 | 3,034,957 |
| STORE PROPERTIES, FIXTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS (At Cost) |  |  |
| Land | \$ 6,095,081 |  |
| Buildings . . . . . . \$3,287,241 |  |  |
| Less reserve for depreciation . . 1,276,808 | 2,010,433 |  |
| Furniture and fixtures . . . . \$3,538,078 |  |  |
| Less reserve for depreciation . . 3,973,428 | 4,564,650 |  |
| Alterations and improvements to leased properties (this amount is being amortized over a period not in excess of the term of the leases involved) | 5,833,000 | 18,503,164 |
| DEFERRED CHARGES |  |  |
| Prepaid taxes, rents and insurance, supplies, etc. |  | 2,089,540 |
|  |  | \$59,967,251 |Cash$\$ 11,490,309$

United States War Savings Bonds, Series F-at re- demption value53,726Merchandise inventories, including merchandise intransit- $\$ 2,694,698$ (at not in excess of the lower ofcost or market)24,132,446\$36,339,590Cash surrender value of life insurance\$ 1,692,036
tax-estimated ..... 923,000
do to and security deposited with landlords- Real estate mortaive67,00040,1883,034,957
STORE PROPERTIES, FIXTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS(At Cost)
Buildings ..... $\$ 3,287,241$
Furniture and fixtures \$8,538,078
Less reserve for depreciation4,564,650
5,833,000 ..... 18,503,164Prepaid taxes, rents and insurance, supplies, etc.
$\begin{array}{r}2,089,540 \\ \hline 59,967,251 \\ \hline\end{array}$

## T COMPANY

## RY COMPANY

BALANCE SHEET

## 31, 1944

## LIABILITIES



## W. T. GRANT COMPANY

AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

## CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 1944


## CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS

Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 1944
BALANCE at February 1, 1943 . . . . . $\$ 22,175,813$
ADD:

Net profit for year
3,810,345
\$ $25,986,158$
DEDUCT:
Cash Dividends:
On 5\% Cumulative Preferred Stock - \$20.00 par value:

Four quarterly dividends of 25 c each, aggregating $\$ 1.00$ per share . . . . . $\$ 348,830$
On Common Stock - $\$ 10.00$ par value:
Four quarterly dividends of 35 c each, aggregating $\$ 1.40$ per share . . . . . 1,665,096 TOTAL DIVIDENDS . . . . 2,013,926
BALANCE at January 31, 1944 . . . . . $\$ 23,972,232$

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors, W. T. Grant Company, New York, N. Y.

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of W. T. Grant Company and its subsidiary as of January 31, 1944, and the consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus of this Company and its subsidiary for the year then ended, have reviewed the system of internal control and the accounting procedures of the companies and, without making a detailed audit of the transactions, have examined or tested accounting records of the companies and other supporting evidence, by methods and to the extent we deemed appropriate. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards applicable in the circumstances and included all procedures which we considered necessary.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet and related consolidated statements of profit and loss and surplus present fairly the position of W. T. Grant Company and its subsidiary at January 31, 1944, and the results of the operations of the Company and its subsidiary for the year, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

ERNST \& ERNST

New York, N. Y.
April 12, 1944.
W. T. GRANT COMPANY
COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED INCOME ACCOUNTS fiscal year
(Which ends January 31 of subsequent calendar year)
SALES
OTHER DEDUCTIONS (net)
NET INCOME
DEDUCT:
Interest paid less interest earned
Allowance for depreciation and amortization Provision for federal income tax
Provision for federal excess profits tax
Provision for taxes or other contingencies
COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS ACCOUNTS


ASSETS:
AT END OF FISCAL YEAR
(January 31 of subsequent calendar year)
United States War Savings Bonds and Stamps Accounts receivable

Merchandise inventories TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS .

Cash surrender value of life insurance estimated . . . .

Advances and security with landlords Miscellaneous investments, employ
receivable, etc. (net) . . Land and buildings, depreciated. Furniture and fixtures, deprecia Alterations and improvements (net) Deferred charges

TOTAL ASSETS
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL: Accounts payable

Real estate bonds and mortgages payable-current . Accrued accounts

Federal taxes on income estimated (after deduction
 TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES
 Tenants deposits under leases

Reserve for repainting stores
Reserve for taxes or other contingencies
Reserve for flood losses
Capital stock:
Preferred-5\% cumulative $\$ 20$ par value Common-\$10 par value.

SHEETS
BALANCE
COMPARATIVE CONSOLIDATED

$36,339,590$
$1,692,036$ 923,000
312,733





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$\infty$
10
10
0

6,750








## 493 GRANT STORES

| ALABAMA (6) | GEORGIA (7) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Anniston | Albany |
| Eirmingham | Atlanta |
| Decatur | Augusta |
| Gadsden | Brunswick |
| Huntsville | Macon |
| Mobile | Savannah Valdosta |
| ARKANSAS (1) |  |
| Pine Bluff | ILLINOIS (16) |
| CALIFORNIA (10) | Alton |
| Berkeley | Belleville |
| Fresno | Chicago (3) |
| Huntington Park | Decatur |
| Los Angeles (2) | East St. Louis |
| Oakland | Elgin |
| Sacramento | Galesburg |
| San Jose | Jacksonville |
| Santa Barbara | Joliet |
| Santa Monica | Peoria |
|  | Quincy |
| COLORADO (1) | Rockford |
| Denver | Springfield |
| CONNECTICUT (26) |  |
| Bridgeport (2) | INDIANA (9) |
| Danbury | Evansville |
| Danielson | Fort Wayne |
| Derby | Gary |
| Greenwich | Hammond |
| Hartiord | Indianapolis |
| Manchester | Michigan City |
| Meriden | Now Albany |
| Middletown | Newcastle |
| Milford | South Bend |
| New Britain |  |
| New Haven |  |
| New London | IOWA (4) |
| New Milford | Clinton |
| Putnam | Davenport |
| Rockville | Ottumwa |
| Southington | Waterloo |
| Stamford |  |
|  |  |
| Thompsonville | KANSAS (4) |
| Torrington | Hutchinson |
| Wallingford | Pittsburg |
| Waterbury | Topeka |
| Winsted | Wichita |
| DELAWARE (3) | KENTUCKY (2) |
| Dover | Louisville |
| Milford | Paducah |
| Wilmington Paducah |  |
| FLORIDA (6) | LOUISIANA (5) |
| Jacksonville | Alexendria |
| Lakeland | Baton Rouge |
| Miami | Monroe |
| Orlando | New Orleans |
| Tampa (2) | Shreveport |


| MAINE (12) | Rockland |
| :---: | :---: |
| Bangor | Salem |
| Bath | Somerville |
| Brunswick | Stoneham |
| Calais | Taunton |
| Fort Kent | Wakefield |
| Gardiner | Waltham |
| Lewiston | Ware |
| Old Town | Watertown |
| Portland | Webster |
| Sanford | Westfield |
| Skowhegan | Weymouth |
| Van Buren | Woburn |
| MARYLAND (4) | Worcester |
| Baltimore | MICHIGAN (9) |
| Cambridge | Detroit (2) |
| Crisfield | Grand Rapids |
| Hagerstown | Hamtramck |
| MASSACHUSETTS (72) | Kalamazoo |
| Adams | Lansing |
| Arlington | Saginaw |
| Athol | St. Joseph |
| Beverly |  |
| Boston (12) | MINNESOTA (4) |
| Brockton | Minneapolis |
| Cambridge | Rochester |
| Chelsea | St. Paul |
| Chicopee | Winona |
| Clinton | Winona |
| Danvers | MISSISSIPPI (1) |
| Easthamptoa | Jackson |
| Everett |  |
| Fall River | MISSOURI (4) |
| Fitchburg | Kansas City |
| Framingham | St. Joseph |
| Franklin | St. Louis |
| Gardner | Springfield |
| Gloucester |  |
| Great Barrington | NEBRASKA. (2) |
| Haverhill | Lincoln |
| Holyoke | Omaha |
| Hudson |  |
| Hyannis | NEW HAMPSHIRE (9) |
| Lawrence | Berlin |
| Leominster | Concord |
| Lynn (2) | Derry |
| Malden | Dover |
| Marlboro | Franklin |
| Medford | Manchester |
| Melrose | Nashua |
| Middleboro | Portsmouth |
| Milford | Rochester |
| Natick |  |
| Needham | NEW JERSEY (27) |
| New Bedford (2) | Bayonne |
| Norfolk Downs | Bloomfield |
| North Adams | Bridgeton |
| North Attleboro | Burlington |
| Norwood | Camden |
| Palmer | Collingswood |
| Peabody | Dover |
| Pittsfield | Hackensack |
| Plymouth | Hoboken |
| Reading | Jersey City (3) |

## IN 39 STATES

Millville
Mount Holly
Newark (2)
New Brunswick
Passaic
Paterson
Plainfield
Rahway
Riverside
Somerville
Trenton
Union City
Vineland
West New York
NEW YORX (87)
Albany
Amsterdam
Batavia
Bath
Bay Shore, L. I.
Beacon
Binghamton
Buffalo (8)
Canandaigua
Carthage
Catskill
Corning
Cortland
Dansville
Elmixa
Freeport, L. I.
Geneva
Glen Cove, L. I.
Glens Fall:
Gouverneur
Great Neck, L. I.
Hempstead, L. I.
Herkimer
Hudson Falls
Huntington, L. I.
Ilion
Jamestown
Johnstown
Kenmore
Kingston
Lackawanna
Lockport
Lynbrook, L. I.
Mechanicville
Medina
Middletown
New York
Bronx (4)
Brooklyn (2)
Manhattan (5
Queens (4)
New Rochelle
Niagara Falls
Norwich
Olean
Oneida
Oneonta
Oyster Bay, L. I.
Patchogue, L. I.
Penn Yan
Port Chester

Port Jervis
Poughkeepsie
Riverhead, L. I.
Rochester
Rockville Center, L. I.
Rome
Schenectady
Seneca Falls
Syracuse (2)
Tonawanda
Troy
Utica
Watertown
Warsaw
Westfield
Wellsville
White Plains
Yonkers
NORTH CAROLINA (10)
Charlotte
Concord
Elizabeth City
Goldsboro
Greensboro
Greenville
Hickory
Kannapolis
Kinston
Raleigh
NORTH DAKOTA (1)
Fargo
OHIO (26)
Akron
Barberton
Bellaire
Bellevue
Cambridge
Canton
Circleville
Cleveland
Columbus
Conneaut
Dayton
Delphos
East Liverpool
Elyria
Kent
Lima
Mansfield
Marion
Middletown
New Philadelphia
Newark
Norwalk
Portsmouth
Steubenville
Toledo
Youngstown
OKLAHOMA (2)
Muskogee
Oklahoma City
PENNSYLVANIA (64)
Altoona
Bangor

Beaver Falls
Berwick
Blairsville
Bloomsburg
Butler
Carlisle
Chambersburg
Columbia
Conshohocken
Danville
Elizabethtown
Ellwood City
Erie
Freeland
Greenville
Hazleton
Homestead
Honesdale
Huntingdon
Jeannette
Johnstown
Lancaster
Lock Haven
McKeesport
Mahanoy City
Middletown
Milton
Mount Pleasant
Mount Union
New Kensington
Norristown
Oil City
Palmerton
Philadelphia (4)
Philipsburg
Phoenixville
Pittston
Pittsburgh (2)
Pottstown
Pottsville
Reading
Sayre
Scranton
Shamokin
Shippensburg
Sunbury
Tarentum
Titusville
Towanda
Uniontown
Upper Darby
Washington
Waynesboro
West Chester
Wilkinsburg
Williamsport
Windber
York
RHODE ISLAND (5)
Newport
Pawtucket
Providence
West Warwick
Woonsocket

SOUTH CAROLINA (3)
Charleston
Columbia
Greenville
TENNESSEE (5)
Bristol
Chattanooga
Kingsport
Memphis
Nashville
TEXAS (13)
Abilene
Beaumont
Brownsville
Corpus Christi
Dallas
El Paso
Fort Worth
Galveston
Houston
Port Arthur
San Antonio
Waco
Wichita Falls
UTAH (2)
Ogden
Salt Lake City
VERMONT (5)
Bennington
Burlington
Newport
St. Johnsbury
Springfield
VIRGINLA (13)
Charlottesville
Clifton Forge
Danville
Fredericksburg
Norfolk
Harrisonburg
Hopewell
Lynchburg
Newport News
Petersburg
Portsmouth
Richmond
Roanoke
WEST VIRGINIA (6)
Beckley
Clarksburg
Elkins
Huntington
Parkersburg
Weston
WISCONSIN (7)
Fond du Lac
Green Bay
Madison
Milwaukee (2)
Oshkosh
Sheboygan

